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BULLETIN OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED WITH ANNOTATIONS

R Recommended

Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.

M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.

NR Not recommended

SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.

SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 22 September, 1968 Number 1

New Titles for Children and Young People

Aiken, Joan. Armitage, Armitage, Fly Away Home; illus. by Betty Fraser. Doubleday, 1968. 214p. $3.95.

Ad 5-7 Although this lacks the sustained interest of the author's previous books, since it is distinctly episodic, the story has the same felicitous combination of humor, fantasy, and a breezy acceptance of the ridiculous. The Armitage children have an open door to adventure because their mother, on her honeymoon, had picked up a magic stone and said, carelessly holding the pebble, that she hoped she would have two children . . . and that they'd have a fairy godmother . . . and that interesting things would always happen on Monday. And so they did: the ghost of a governess not only haunted a house, but insisted on giving the Armitage children midnight lessons, and on another occasion the parents were turned into ladybugs by an irritable ex-enchantress living on her professional pension.

Andersen, Doris. Blood Brothers; illus. by David Craig. St. Martin's, 1967. 136p. $3.95.

Ad 5-6 A Norwegian family migrates from Minnesota to the British Columbian wilderness in 1894. Nels finds a new friend almost as soon as the boat docks: Qwata and he become blood brothers, but Qwata's tribe—particularly the medicine man—are suspicious of the newcomers who are encroaching on their land and threatening their cultural patterns. The relationship provides some suspense, but is not the focus of the book nor is the tension eliminated by the end of the story. The book's emphasis is on the family's adjustment to the wilds. The component parts of the story are interesting, but they do not fit smoothly together; the writing style is adequate.

Arundel, Honor. The High House; illus. by Eileen Armitage. Meredith, 1968. 126p. $3.95.

R 5-8 First published in Great Britain in 1966, a brisk and entertaining story about an adolescent girl's first encounter with a different kind of life. Emma, newly orphaned and naturally sedate, cannot understand the Bohemian atmosphere in Aunt Patsy's home, and it takes her some time to loosen up and accept the fact that her aunt's affection and integrity are no less because she doesn't do the dishes promptly after every meal. When Aunt Patsy's fiance and Emma become real friends, Emma accepts with joy the fact that she is really wanted by the people she has come to

love. The characterization and dialogue are excellent, and the modest plot convincing.

Bachmann, Evelyn Trent. Black-eyed Susan; illus. by Lilian Obligado. Viking, 1968. 159p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.77 net.

Ad 4-6 Susan's older sisters were delighted when the family had to move into town to take care of Grandpa's lumber business, but Susan was desolate. She loved the Missouri countryside, she didn't like Grandpa's house, and she resented Grandpa, since he was the cause of her unhappiness. One of the things that helped Susan adjust to her new circumstances was an older friend, Mrs. Hamilton, who had been—she said—a tomboy herself when she was a girl; another was the realization, when Grandpa was almost hit by a train, of how much he really meant to her. No great drama here, but a sympathetic and realistic picture of family life in a small town in the Depression Era. The style is direct, the story a bit hackneyed but unpretentious, and the familial relationships well-drawn.

Bacon, Martha. Sophia Scrooby Preserved; illus. by David Omar White. Atlantic-Little, Brown, 1968. 227p. $4.95.

R 7-9 In the mannered style of the early English novelists, a romantic story in which the heroine moves from one dramatic adventure to another. Born in 1768, the small daughter of an African chieftain is taken into slavery and lives with a Connecticut family that fosters her natural bent for education and musical training. Sophia and the Scroobys are separated, and she falls into the clutches of pirates, is the captive of a voodoo queen, the companion to an English lady of means, and a performer at Drury Lane before her reunion with the Scroobys in Canada. Sophia is an engaging heroine, and her story is written with flavor; the book tends, however, to have the indefatigable quality of Anthony Adverse.

Baldwin, Gordon C. Strange Peoples and Stranger Customs. Norton, 1967. 269p. illus. Trade ed. $3.75; Library ed. $3.48 net.

Ad 7-10 There is, in the title of this book, a patronizing note that is misleading, since the book is not patronizing; it is about primitive peoples and their cultures. To an archeologist primitive peoples are interesting; they are seldom strange. The chapters are devoted to such areas of interest as clothing, shelter, communication, social customs, and painting or tattooing the face and body. Within each chapter, the arrangement of material seems utterly random, so that the book, despite a good index, seems to have little but browsing use, however interesting the topic. A glossary, a reading list, and endpaper location maps are included.

Beecher, W. J. A Child's Book of Birds; illus. by F. Brod. Platt and Munk, 1968. 63p. $1.95.

M 4-6 About thirty birds are pictured here, each full-page, full-color illustration facing a page of text that consists of a paragraph of general description followed by a paragraph in italics that gives facts about the eggs and nest, the bird's call, the scientific name, and some details about the bird's appearance. There is occasionally some discrepancy between the latter and the facing picture; the "blue-black" of the redheaded woodpecker, for example, is in the picture quite a dark, bright blue. The page size, colored illustrations, and brief descriptions make the book

easy to use for quick identification, but it is weakened by the fact that the birds are limited in number, and by the arrangement—alphabetical, with "great horned owl" following "golden eagle"—but with no index or table of contents in which one can find "eagle" or "owl." There is also an unscientific note in the preface; for example, "It took tree-gliding lizards millions of years to replace their scales with feathers. When they did, they became birds."

Buehr, Walter. Automobiles; Past and Present; written and illus. by Walter Buehr. Morrow, 1968. 96p. Trade ed. $3.25; Library ed. $3.14 net.

Ad 5-7

A simply written book that describes the evolution of the first automobiles, steam, electric, and internal-combustion powered. Considerable attention is given to Henry Ford's work on manufacturing inexpensive vehicles produced by assembly-line methods, and much of the information about the manufacture of today's automobiles is based on a visit to the Ford plant. A final chapter discusses some of the improvements in design and in safety factors that are now being tested, as well as some of the probable substitutes for the internal combustion engine. The clear explanations and large print are admirable, but some of the former could well have been amplified by the use of labeled diagrams such as are found in Bendick's The First Book of Automobiles (Watts, 1966). An index is appended.

Burland, Cottie A. The Ancient Maya; drawings by Elizabeth Hammond. Day, 1967. 112p. Library ed. $3.29 net.

R 9-

Too heavy and detailed to serve as an introduction to Maya history, this is a scholarly and informative description of the ancient Maya. Mr. Burland describes cultural patterns, mathematics and writing, the magnificent architectural achievements, the advanced knowledge of astronomy, and the rich complexity of Maya art. The account concludes with the rivalry between Toltec and Maya, the centuries-long domination of the walled city of Mayapán, and the Spanish conquest, with a brief discussion of the Maya in Mexico and Guatemala in recent years. A table of dates, a list of suggestions for further reading, and an index are appended.

Campbell, Hope. Why Not Join the Giraffes? Norton, 1968. 223p. Trade ed. $3.75; Library ed. $3.48 net.

R 7-10

An entertaining novel for girls, not without a crisp comment on conformity. While other adolescents rebel against conservative parents, Suzie Henderson grieves because her mother and father are slightly beat, and her inclination toward conservatism is catapulted into action when she meets Ralph. Ralph's parents are not only conservative, they are stuffy; Suzie gets into trouble when one lie—made in an effort to impress Ralph—grows into a web of falsehood. In the end, Suzie finds that Ralph is more impressed with the honesty and candor of her parents than with the false values of his. The Giraffes are a combo, and to Suzie a symbol of the beatnik world she abjures. Good style, good dialogue, and good humor, despite the acid portrait of Ralph's parents.

Cartey, Wilfred. The West Indies; Islands in the Sun. Nelson, 1967. 224p. illus. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.31 net.

R
6-10

Well-written and quite profusely illustrated with photographs, this is an interesting, informative, and astute book on the islands of the Caribbean. The author, a Jamaican, describes the lands, the peoples, and their histories; of even greater importance is his discussion of the economic history of the islands, and their present need for economic independence. A bibliography, a list of important dates, and an index are appended.

Cepeda, Orlando. My Ups and Downs in Baseball; by Orlando Cepeda with Charles Einstein. Putnam, 1968. 191p. $4.95.

NR
7-9

Most sports autobiographies have an element of self-importance; this one has more than usual. The author ("with" his co-author) has little hesitation in quoting complimentary remarks or in boasting: "But to judge me at absolutely my worst, I was good for 95 rbi's a year. At my worst!" (Italics his.) There are, of course, many descriptions of baseball plays and many inner-circle anecdotes that will appeal to baseball fans.

Cone, Molly. The House in the Tree; A Story of Israel; illus. by Symeon Shimin. T. Y. Crowell, 1968. 40p. $3.75.

Ad
3-5

His name really was Jacob, but in the year he visited Israel, he was called Yaacov; his Israeli friends laughed at Yaakov's determination to build a tree house. There was no wood, they said, no spare wood in Israel; nevertheless, Yaakov found the wood for his tree house. The style is direct and the illustrations very attractive; the book gives a not-too-obtrusive smattering of information about Israel and how the Israelis feel about their country, but it is weakened by the slightness of the plot and by the fact that Yaakov's desire was achieved, not by persistence on his part (although he certainly had it) but by chance.

Conger, Lesley. Three Giant Stories; as told by Lesley Conger; pictures by Rosalind Fry. Four Winds, 1968. 42p. $3.50.

R
K-2

Three giant stories, adequately illustrated, with a rather sophisticated use of wry humor that should make them enjoyable to the adult reading the book aloud. The first story is about a weak, skinny, cowardly (but clever) cobbler who outwits a fierce, huge (but stupid) giant; the second about a braggart who frightens a giant; the third about a modest little man whose career as a vanquisher of giants and other troubles begins by sheer misinterpretation.

Corbin, William. Smoke. Coward-McCann, 1967. 253p. $4.50.

R
6-9

Chris had tried, at first, to be pleasant to his stepfather, but he resented Cal's manner, his position of authority, and the fact that he had taken his father's place. He hid from Cal the fact that he had found a stray dog in the woods, a sick and starving German shepherd; he asked two other adults for help, and he told his small sister, but he refused to share anything with Cal. When Chris ran into trouble, however, it was Cal that understood and helped him—not only with the dog, Smoke, but also with his own achievement of a measure of maturity. Smoothly written, the book has two strong qualities in addition to the suspense of the story line: the relationships are subtle and perceptive in their changes,

and the themes of taming the dog and of the growth of rapport between Chris and Cal are deftly interwoven.

Credle, Ellis. Mexico; Land of Hidden Treasure. Nelson, 1967. 223p. illus. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.31 net.

Ad 6-9

A book that gives historical background and a considerable amount of information about contemporary programs and problems in Mexico; the author, who has lived there many years, also comments perceptively on the fusing of Spanish and Indian customs. The book is poorly organized but well written, save for an infrequent generalization. "They all dream of visiting or studying in the United States." The photographs are of good quality. Covering the same material, but better organized and better written is Hobart's Mexican Mural (Harcourt, 1963); this is designed for a slightly younger audience than the Hobart book. Appended are a reading list, an index, a list of dates important in Mexican history, and a list that gives the pronunciation of Mexican words.

DeForest, Charlotte B. The Prancing Pony; Nursery Rhymes from Japan; ad. into English verse for children by Charlotte B. DeForest; with "kusa-e" illus. by Keiko Hida. Walker, 1968. 63p. $3.95.

R 3-7 yrs.

First published in Japan in 1967, a compilation of fifty-three favorite nursery songs. The translation occasionally forces metrical flaws, but the subjects are of universal appeal: snow or springtime, butterflies and elves, and many about animals of all kinds. The illustrations are very handsome paper collage pictures, with sophisticated and effective use of color.

De Kay, Ormonde. Meet Andrew Jackson; illus. by Isa Barnett. Random House, 1967. 87p. (Step-Up Books) $1.95.

M 2-4

Short sentences and very large print make this a useful biography of Jackson although the flat writing and the occasional addition of details of little relevance (such as Jackson's kindness to an Indian child during the Creek War) are weaknesses. Jackson's story is a dramatic one, especially in his youth, so that the book should have appeal. Endpaper maps show the states added to the Union from the Revolution to 1845.

Dugdale, Vera. Album of North American Birds; illus. by Clark Bronson. Rand McNally, 1967. 112p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.79 net.

R 5-9

An oversize book that describes over fifty birds, devoting a page or two to each; some of the birds are pictured in full-page, full-color illustrations, and there are smaller drawings in black and white, precise and delicate, of all the birds. The text is written with a note of dry humor added to a sprightly style; the author gives information about appearance, habitat, habits, migratory patterns, mating, appearance of eggs and of fledglings, patterns of flight, and calls and songs, although not all of this information is given for each bird. The scientific name for each bird is given. The book has reference use for younger children.

Duncombe, Frances Riker. The Quetzal Feather; drawings and map by W. T. Mars. Lothrop, 1967. Trade ed. $4.50; Library ed. $4.14 net.

A fine adventure story based on historical fact. In 1523, Cortes sent

R 7-9 an expedition from Mexico to Guatemala to gain new lands for Spain. Led by Pedro Alvarado, the soldiers hoped to find gold—and, of course, new converts to the Cross. Only fourteen, Luis de Lapena had run away from home to follow the leader he adored; but as he came to know Alvarado, the boy unhappily recognized the man as vain and meretricious. Luis also became increasingly sympathetic toward the Indians, so that when the time came for him to decide on his future, he determined to devote his life to working with the Indians at a mission. The historical background is detailed and vivid, the story both colorful and convincing. An appendix provides historical notes.

Dunn, Mary Lois. The Man in the Box; A Story from Vietnam. McGraw-Hill, 1968. 155p. $4.50.

Ad 6-8 The story of a courageous Vietnamese mountain boy whose father had died at the hands of the Viet Cong; Chau Li, knowing that he could never come back home again, rescued the American who was caged—as his father had been—in a wooden crate. Naked, tortured, and beaten, the unconscious American was dragged to a cave where Chau Li fed and nursed him, and later managed to get his new friend to the Green Beret camp. This is a tale that is both sentimental and heroic, well-written, just slightly contrived in places, and weakened by the rather stern demarcation between the evil Viet Cong and the good Montagnards, French, and American.

Emberley, Ed. Green Says Go. Little, 1968. 32p. illus. $3.95.

R 5-8 yrs. An excellent first book about color despite the few minor flaws in color printing. (Black and gray are shown, for example, and the next color-circle referred to as black is actually the same shade of gray.) The author shows primary and complementary colors, explains how colors are made lighter or darker, and reminds the reader of some of the ways in which color can be used as communication: the colors on traffic lights or the colors that one associates with a holiday. A few pages show some of the familiar color-terms in use: in the pink, feeling blue, or yellow for cowardice; here the concepts are not quite as clear as they are in the rest of the book.

Etter, Les. Golden Gloves Challenger; illus. by Francis Chauncy. Hastings House, 1967. 125p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3.33 net.

Ad 7-10 Suspended for the season because he had lost his temper during a high school football game, Dan Barton is told by the team trainer that he ought to try boxing. One of the boxers he meets is a school dropout, Dembrowski, who gets into a fight; along with the others, Dan (who has not participated) is picked up by the police. Dembrowski is dropped from the club, and, under the aegis of another club, later beats Dan in a Golden Gloves bout—but Dan receives an award for sportsmanship and fair play. The fact that Dan is a Negro is of minor relevance to the apparent message of the book: organized boxing is a clean sport that keeps boys off the street and builds character. Adequately written, with some information about boxing, this is a book with enough action to attract sports fans, but it is superficial compared to Lipsyte's The Contender (Harper & Row; reviewed in the May, 1968 issue) which is better written, and more balanced and thoughtful.

Fischer, Vera Kistiakowsky. One Way Is Down: A Book about Gravity; illus. by Ward Brackett. Little, 1967. 28p. $3.50.

Ad 2-3 An introduction to the topic of gravity, written in a simple but rather flat style. The text explains that all objects attract in proportion to size and distance; having referred repeatedly to the downward pull of gravity, it does not make clear that "down" is a relative term. The illustrations are not informative but are attractive.

Fleming, Thomas J. First in Their Hearts; A Biography of George Washington; illus. with photographs and engravings. Norton, 1968. 136p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.69 net.

R 6-9 A lively biography that makes George Washington a vividly real and human figure. Candid, objective, and smoothly written, the book gives more information about Washington's relationships with his family, especially with his demanding mother, than do most accounts of his life. An index is appended.

Freeman, Mae (Blacker). When Air Moves. McGraw-Hill, 1968. 45p. illus. $3.95.

R 3-5 Illustrated with clear photographs and drawings, a very good introduction to the topic. The author discusses, in very simple terms, the fact that air is a substance and that man has used moving air in transportation; she describes the functioning of parachutes, propellors, and airplane wings, and some of the newer developments such as the Hovercraft and the air train. Nicely limited for the middle grades reader, and written in a crisp, straightforward style.

Goldston, Robert C. The Negro Revolution. Macmillan, 1968. 247p. illus. $4.95.

R 8- There have been several other good histories of the American Negro people and their fight for recognition; this is a welcome addition because it is well-written, thoroughly researched, and comprehensive. The author covers the material included in most such histories, and adds to it a continuing and perceptive examination of underlying motives and ancillary factors. A bibliography, reading list, and relative index are appended.

Goldston, Robert C. Spain. Macmillan, 1967. 138p. illus. $3.95.

R 7- An excellent book, written in a mature and often scintillating style, with a comprehensive and shrewdly analytical approach to the many facets of the Spanish scene; the author gives ample historical background, including a compact chapter on the Civil War, and discusses Spanish art and literature today as well as contemporary economic and political problems. A reading list and an index are appended.

Green, Diana Huss. The Lonely War of William Pinto. Little, 1968. 171p. $4.75.

Ad 6-9 A story of the Revolutionary War, set in Connecticut. Will Pinto is the youngest of three brothers, and is admitted to Yale at the age of fourteen; he finds himself almost a pariah because he feels that the talk of rebellion is disloyal. His brothers and his father support the patriot cause, while Will feels that nobody who is Jewish has any reason to feel loyalty to the colony. The breach becomes complete when his father, to

show his rejection of Will, rends his shirt and says the prayers for the dead; Will leaves home, but returns when the British attack New Haven; he goes to war, having made peace with his family, to support the patriots. The book is interesting for two reasons: as the picture of a Jewish family in colonial times, and as a picture of a divided family of honest men. It is weak in writing style and in the rather abrupt arrival of the turning point.

Greenway, John. Gormless Tom; And Other Tales from the British Isles; illus. by Jan Palmer. Silver Burdett, 1968. 96p. (Folk Literature Around the World) Library ed. $3.60 net.

Ad 3-5 Nine folk tales retold in an adequate style but weakened by a rather self-conscious use of dialect and idiom. The stories are available in other versions, the value of this lying chiefly in the simple writing and the large print. Included are a noodlehead tale or two, the story of how a thief is trapped by his own greed, the story of the mild tailor who outwits giants, the clever servant who outwits his master, et cetera.

Heady, Eleanor B. When the Stones Were Soft; East African Fireside Tales; illus. by Tom Feelings. Funk and Wagnalls, 1968. 94p. $3.50.

R 4-6 Sixteen East African folktales are illustrated with softly executed pictures in black and white; the stories are retold from familiar versions of traditional material from Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, and each is prefaced by a repeated pattern, in which Mama Semamingi—the storyteller—gathers the village children around the fire. Many of the tales are about animals, some are about nature, others about human behavior. Good style, and a nice source for storytelling as well as for reading aloud.

Hoff, Syd. Wanda's Wand; story and pictures by Syd Hoff. Gibson, 1968. 24p. $1.95.

Ad 5-7 yrs. A small book with a slight but gratifying plot and Hoff's familiar humorous cartoon figures. Wanda dreams of being a fairy when she grows up, although her attempts at working miracles with a wand (stick) have produced no magic to date. Frustrated, she throws her stick away and spends her time doing wonderful things without it—helping people, playing with her friends. She has changed her career goal, she tells her mother: now she wants to be a nurse or a teacher, just as her older sister does.

Hofsinde, Robert. Indian Music Makers; written and illus. by Robert Hofsinde. Morrow, 1967. 96p. $2.95.

R 4-7 A great deal of detailed information about Indian instruments is provided in straightforward, dry style. Illustrations amplify the descriptions of how drums, tom-toms, rattles, and flutes were made, several variations of each kind being discussed. The last two chapters are devoted to Indian songs, past and present; some musical notation is included, but most of the text describes the ceremonial uses of songs. A brief index is appended.

Hough, Charlotte. Red Biddy and Other Stories; stories and illus. by Charlotte Hough. Coward-McCann, 1967. 125p. Library ed. $2.86 net.

Ten sprightly fairy tales in modern settings, told with style and humor and illustrated with engaging black and white drawings. A nice example of all of these is the story of a very small mermaid (shown tucked into a bicycle basket) who is caught by Peter; he hides his find in his bedroom, where the mermaid creates watery havoc that appalls Peter's mother. Named Amaryllis, the mermaid is put into a goldfish pool for safekeeping, but she is—alas—fond of roasted goldfish. So Peter gives her to his Aunt Em, who lives by the sea. '"Aunt Em can't be so badly off,' Peter's mother says these days, 'Surely those were real pearls she was wearing.'"

R
4-6

Jackson, Jacqueline. Chicken Ten Thousand; illus. by Barbara Morrow. Little, 1968. 31p. $3.95.

A most engaging picture book that traces the life of a chicken in the mechanized world of big-business egg-packing. One of ten thousand chickens to move from hatcher to brooder, Little Ten Thousand had the frustrating experience of laying eggs that disappeared (dropping through the wire floor of the cage) onto a moving belt that carried them on to washing and packaging. Depleted, our heroine was destined for destruction—but a fallen crate enabled her to escape—and in a new environment of sunshine and flowers and delicious worms she began a new life that culminated in seeing her own chicks hatch. The combination of information about the egg business and a somehow touching—but not quite sentimental—story is achieved very smoothly and with just a touch of humor.

R
K-2

Jackson, Jesse. Tessie; pictures by Harold James. Harper, 1968. 243p. Trade ed. $4.95; Library ed. $4.43 net.

The story of a fourteen-year-old Harlem girl who wins a scholarship to an exclusive, all-white private school. Tessie's parents are dubious about the wisdom of accepting the scholarship, but Tessie has the courage to expose herself socially and the determination to get the academic advantages of a good school. While she runs into some prejudice both at the private school and among her own friends in Harlem, Tessie learns to make the best of both her worlds. The writing is uneven, but the situation is realistically developed and there are some moments of high fidelity in the plot; characterization is good albeit not deep.

R
6-9

Keeping, Charles. Charley, Charlotte and the Golden Canary. Watts, 1967. 30p. illus. $3.95.

As a story, this is weakened by contrivance; the setting is urban, the plot simple. Living in a blighted London neighborhood, Charley and Charlotte are best friends. When Charlotte's house is demolished, she moves to a high-rise building and the children, separated, miss each other. Charley buys a canary, and one day the bird escapes and leads him straight to Charlotte when it soars to her apartment balcony. The deficiencies of the story are compensated for by the brilliant beauty of the illustrations.

Ad
K-2

Kiddell, John. Euloowirree Walkabout. Chilton, 1968. 192p. Trade ed. $4.50; Library ed. $4.37 net.

Three Australian boys go walkabout on a bet when the father of one of them (feeling that things were really tough in the old days) wagers

Ad
6-9

that David, Hamish, and Bottle can't get from Sydney to Adelaid in six weeks. They are to start with a dollar each, and they must accept no money en route, although they may work for food, shelter, or animal transport. A cheerful and capable trio, the lads go off and have a series of adventures; none of these is unbelievable, but in toto the boys' accomplishments are a slight strain on credulity, as they cope with everything from putting on a wedding (furnishing counsel, food, music, and assistance during the ceremony) to taming a wayward camel. They are pursued by a malevolent sot who is convinced they have wronged him, and the book ends with the reunion in Adelaide including the reprobate, whom they have converted by instant therapy. What makes the book so engaging is the bouncy style and the dialogue; the three boys are witty and humorous in the best English-schoolboy tradition.

Kramer, George. Kid Battery; illus. by Leon Gregori. Putnam, 1968. 128p. $3.50.

Ad 6-9

Youngest members on the roster, Paul and Bart are known as the "kid battery" when they join a major league team for spring training; the new manager isn't satisfied with them, so the boys go to a farm club. They are surprised to find that they like it very much, particularly because of the manager, Oliver; Paul, who is dating his daughter, is troubled because he suspects that Oliver is gambling. Everything comes right in the end, Paul discovering that the manager (who has indeed gambled) is cooperating with the police. There are some good baseball sequences, and the plot, although it seems a trifle forced, is not the standard brash-rookie-becomes-glorious-hero formula.

Kramon, Florence. Eugene and the Policeman; illus. by Charles Bracke. Follett, 1967. 31p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.97 net.

M 5-7 yrs.

In a series that was written "to give big-city children a sense of importance in their way of life" the cartoon-style illustrations and the rhyming text add easy appeal to the familiar scene. The rhymes, unfortunately, are often contrived, ("At first it sailed straight through the air/ And past the windows of Mr. Blair/ It swooped and looped, and with a zoom/ It fell to the sidewalk near Mr. Bloom.") and the story is very much stretched. Since Eugene's parents threaten him with telling the police, Eugene understandably is afraid of them. One day his cap blows off, Eugene chases it interminably, Officer B. (from Eugene's immediate neighborhood) takes the lost boy home and not only reassures him, but gets free booty from local merchants as they pass—on Eugene's behalf, to be sure. Just—not-quite-believable.

Kumin, Maxine W. The Wonderful Babies of 1809 (and other years); drawings by Carl Rose. Putnam, 1968. 63p. Library ed. $3.29 net.

Ad 3-5

A book of verses, with too-busy pages filled with illustrations that vary from cartoon-style to quite handsome snow scenes. The poems are cheerfully laudatory biographies, the title poem extolling the brace of babies born in the "miracle year" who grew up to be famous people. Sample: the first lines of "Eureka!" are "Archimedes was a Greek. He took a hot bath every week. And after soaping up, he sat contemplating this and that." There's a bit of contrivance in some of the rhyme, but most of the poetry is tidy, sprightly, and even informative.

Lavine, David. What Does a Senator Do? photographs by Ira Mandelbaum. Dodd, 1967. Trade ed. $3; Library ed. $2.79 net.

R 5-9 A crisply straightforward account of senatorial duties and obligations, prefaced by a history of the United States Senate and illustrated by many photographs. The author describes the many ancillary responsibilities that a Senator has in addition to his primary obligation of participating in discussion and voting on the floor. The text is continuous, the tone of writing serious but not heavy. There is a minimal amount of discussion of Senatorial perquisites and of the body's relationship to the Presidency. Despite the rather juvenile format, the information will be useful for slow readers in ninth grade.

Leskowitz, Irving. Animals Are Like This; by Irving Leskowitz and A. Harris Stone; illus. by Peter P. Pasencia. Prentice Hall, 1968. 64p. $3.95.

Ad 5-7 As in previous books by these co-authors, the reader is given suggestions for experiments, but not told the answers—although many a hint is dropped. The style is brisk, the approach commendable. This seems a little more likely to need guidance or supplemental information than do the previous books, since the experiments involve material that is not—or not always—inert. None of the experiments, the authors carefully explain, will cause pain to any of the animals being used. A glossary is appended, as is a list of sources of supplies.

Lexau, Joan M. Striped Ice Cream; illus. by John Wilson. Lippincott, 1968. 95p. Trade ed. $3.25; Library ed. $3.11 net.

R 2-4 Last year for her birthday, Becky had had chicken-spaghetti and striped ice cream; now, for her eighth birthday, Becky feared they were too poor to have even that. But love and industry work wonders: not only did she get the ice cream, but a brand new dress! Only the youngest of four girls in a family of modest means could so rejoice at something that wasn't a hand-me-down; Becky, who had been coaxed out of the way while the dress was being made, was especially happy because she had wondered if her family really cared for her. This is a simple, realistic story of a working-class family; it is not a problem book nor does it have a message. The illustrations show a buxom, amiable, tired mother and five lively children.

Liss, Howard. The Mighty Mekong; illus. with photographs. Hawthorn Books, 1967. 112p. $3.95.

Ad 5-8 The Mekong River flows from the Tibetan mountains through China, Burma, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, and Vietnam; the text—following the river's course—moves from country to country, discussing the living patterns of the peoples near the river. There is some historical background given, and a considerable amount of information about agriculture, regional foods, religions, and local legends. Adequately written, the book is useful; since it covers so much material, however, it cannot give full descriptions of individual countries. The final chapter discusses the benefits of a proposed system of dams and power stations along the Mekong. A bibliography and an index are appended.

McKown, Robin. Girl of Madagascar. Messner, 1968. 190p. $3.50.

Ad 7-10

Sahondra is an orphan who brings her small brother to a clinic and hospital run by WHO during the transition period between French rule and the establishment of the independent Malagasy Republic. Her brother's death intensifies Sahondra's desire to become a nurse; although there is a considerable amount of attention devoted to Sahondra's unhappy marriage, and the book closes with her decision to get a divorce, the major part of the story is concerned with Sahondra's training and her work as a nurse. The story seems to drag somewhat, the small print is a disadvantage, and the story line is cluttered, but the book does give a vivid picture of the meeting of old and new practices in medicine and of the people in a country still adjusting to independence.

Manning-Sanders, Ruth. A Book of Mermaids; illus. by Robin Jacques. Dutton, 1968. 128p. $3.75.

R 4-6

Sixteen tales of mermaids and mermen are retold here in sprightly style; they are varied and eminently suitable for reading aloud or storytelling as well as for independent reading; they are from a dozen countries, and they are illustrated with effective black and white pictures. Many are tales of mortals who loved or were loved by the merpeople; one very amusing story is about a young mermaid who fell in love with a whale who was exceedingly irritated by her unwelcome attentions; another is on the familiar theme of the beautiful girl mistreated by her stepmother.

May, Charles Paul. A Book of American Birds; illus. by John Crosby. St. Martin's, 1967. 115p. $3.50.

Ad 6-9

Two or three pages are devoted to each of twenty-eight birds, the information given being much the same as that in Dugdale's book, reviewed above, save that there are fewer facts provided and that the scientific names of birds are not included. The illustrations are black and white, with a full-page picture of each bird and a small drawing of either the nest or the young.

Mendoza, George. The Gillygoofang; illus. by Mercer Mayer. Dial, 1968. 28p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.69.

Ad K-2

Elaborate and humorously detailed pictures illustrate a plotless picture book with the dual appeals of nonsense and cumulation. The gillygoofang is a fish that swims backward, bewildering a series of creatures: it puzzles the trout in the brook not because it swims backward to keep the water out of its eyes, but because it changes colors to trick the bigger fish; it bewilders the fishermen, not because it swims backward (et cetera) and changes color (et cetera) but because. . . . and so on. The ending is a bit anticlimactic, but the whole is amusing, especially in such illustrative details as a tiny turtle (never mentioned) who appears on every page.

Neurath, Marie. They Lived Like This in Ancient Africa; artist: Evelyn Worboys. Watts, 1967. 32p. $2.65.

M 3-5

Although the continuous text gives some facts about life in Africa in ancient times, the information is so fragmented and incomplete as to make the book of little use save for browsing or for artistic relevance. The pages are filled with reproductions of artifacts, each accompanied

by a descriptive sentence or paragraph. There are pages in which the drawings are grouped so that several statements about ceremonies (or design, or daily work) are in sequence, but there seems to be no other organization of material.

Newell, Eadie. Trouble Brewing. Steck-Vaughn, 1968. 254p. $2.50.

M 6-8 Living in a town near Chicago, the Brown family often saw bootleggers driving through; they feared that some day they might stop. That was why Mrs. Brown was so upset when her husband made a batch of home brew—for this was 1932, the time of prohibition, financial depression, and (to Mr. Brown) the awful prospect of having That Man in the White House. The book has an abundance of good period detail, and some humor; it also has a considerable number of stock situations and incidents, possibly meant to be funny: Mother trying to learn to drive, Angie's boyfriend fighting a boy who had called her ugly, baby brother pleading to wear overalls instead of his sweet little suit. Actually, a bootlegger does appear, in the guise of a pseudo-kindly man who has been hanging about, enjoying Mother's cooking.

Niclas, Yolla. The Flower of Vassiliki; A Story of Greece; text and photographs by Yolla Niclas. Seabury, 1968. 58p. $3.95.

M 3-5 A family in a small Greek village visited by the author-photographer is described in a book that shows evidence both of contrivance and of the most frequent fault of photographically illustrated stories of real people—the adaptation of text to pictures that are extraneous. Maria is a charming child of six whose widowed mother struggled desperately until the priest convinced her that she should write for government help. Vassilikos (basil) is held to be a holy flower, and Maria's village is named for it. The book gives a picture of village life, with its poverty and piety; and the photographs show the charm of the inhabitants and of the sun-drenched fields, but there is little information here, and as a story it is slight.

Ottley, Reginald. Rain Comes to Yamboorah; illus. by Robert Hales. Harcourt, 1968. 159p. $3.50.

R 5-7 A sequel to Boy Alone and The Roan Colt, stories about a boy (never named) who works on a cattle station in the Australian Outback. Here the boy realizes for the first time his own importance in the tightly-knit and interdependent community of the station and begins to recognize the affection of all its members, from the two aborigine girls who are his companions to the motherly cook and the silent, self sufficient old dogman, Kanga. Like the previous books, this has a compelling air of authenticity and a wonderful evocation of mood and atmosphere.

Panova, V. On Faraway Street; tr. from the Russian by Rya Gabel; ad. by Anne Terry White. Braziller, 1968. 132p. illus. $3.95.

Ad 5-6 A story that will be familiar to those who saw the Russian movie, "A Summer to Remember." The writing is often tender and occasionally sentimental, the small protagonist an engaging five-year-old; the latter fact will limit the book's appeal to readers in the upper grades. Seryozha was delighted when his widowed mother married Korostelov, since he was just the kind of man a boy wanted as a father. Indeed, when Seryozha

(now six) had to face a situation that made him bitterly unhappy, it was his stepfather who came to the rescue rather than his mother. A touching picture of the relationship between man and boy, and an interesting picture of life in a farming village in the Soviet Union.

Papas, William. No Mules. Coward-McCann, 1967. 31p. illus. Library ed. $3.29 net.

Ad
K-3

The illustrations are humorous in caricature style in this gay tale with a not-too-subtle message. Faan is a small African boy who longs to visit the nearest town, Pink River; at last his father says he may come along, and Faan happily rides his white mule into the town's business district. He sees a flute in a store window, but doesn't notice the sign that says, "No Blacks." Ejected, Faan puts his money in the mule's mouth—after all, the mule is white, he reasons, and he shoves the animal into the store. The frightened mule creates havoc, and the storekeeper, after tidying the store, takes down the sign and substitutes one saying, "No Mules." The cheerfully derisive comment on the nonsense of color bar is satisfying, but the storekeeper's action isn't convincing.

Parker, Elinor Milnor, comp. Here and There; 100 Poems about Places; illus. by Peter Spier. T. Y. Crowell, 1967. 170p. $4.50.

R
7-

A particularly nostalgic anthology, this compilation of poems about beloved places and place-names. Some of the selections are commemorative ("The Jewish Cemetery at Newport," "On the Extinction of the Venetian Republic") and some rollicking, but most of them are simply poems of affection for a familiar place. Author and title indexes are appended.

Peterson, Roger Tory. The Birds; by Roger Tory Peterson and the editors of Time-Life Books. Time, 1967. 128p. illus. $3.95.

R
6-10

Unlike the other three bird books reviewed in this issue (Beecher, Dugdale, May) this is about the whole subject, the class Aves, rather than a compilation of descriptions of individual birds. There are few men better qualified than Mr. Peterson, and he has provided a book that is varied and stimulating as well as authentic. Its one weakness is the random arrangement of material, a weakness only partially mitigated by the index. The text includes discussions of migration, conservation, the language of birds, oddities and adaptations, habits and protective devices, breeding, and so on. A bit of everything, in lively prose. The appended reading list comprises recently published books on a broad range of topics within the subject field.

Platt, Kin. The Boy Who Could Make Himself Disappear. Chilton, 1968. 216p. Trade ed. $4.95; Library ed. $4.70 net.

R
10-

Although it is a little difficult to believe in the sustained cruelty of Roger's mother, this is a story so moving and so well written that one must accept her as a person whose aberrant behavior, deeply sadistic and selfish, has gone without notice because most of it is directed, in private, toward her only child. Roger and his mother, newly divorced, have moved to New York, so that this disturbed child is making an adjustment to a new city, a new school, and to the divorce in addition to his burdens of rejection and a concomitant speech impediment. His ef-

forts to improve, his sad musings on incidents of the past, his efforts to cope with his mother's hostility, and his valiant efforts to cooperate with the speech therapist are brilliantly told.

Polland, Madeleine. To Tell My People; illus. by Richard M. Powers. Holt, 1968. 209p. Trade ed. $4.50; Library ed. $3.97 net.

R 6-8 A story set in Britain at the time of the Roman invasion, its heroine a young girl who is taken captive by the soldiers and sent to Rome to be sold as a slave. Lumna has strayed from a small colony of lake-dwellers who live in poverty and ignorance, and she yearns to bring to her people all she has learned of a better way of life. When she escapes and returns to her home, Lumna is jeered at or ignored; sorrowing, she realizes that her tribe will learn nothing—they will only fight. The period is most convincingly drawn, the characterization deft, and the story line simple and strong.

Pullen, Alan. The Last Straw; by Alan Pullen and Cryil Rapstoff; illus. by Richard Kennedy. Benn, 1966. 32p. $1.50.

M 6-9 This is one title in a British series designed to interest older children who have difficulty in reading: the book is liberally illustrated (although not well) and has short sentences and quite large, clear print. The subject is intended as bait for reluctant readers: the pitfalls of juvenile delinquency. Sam Deen is sent out to telephone for a doctor, since a neighbor, Mrs. Bender, is ill; he is apprehended by a tough gang of which Mrs. Bender's son is a member. Hurt and hospitalized, Sam recovers and appears at a court hearing; he finds it difficult to testify, but Sam's mother tells the judge the truth about her son and the culprit is sent away. The writing is rather stiff, and the plot seems little enhanced by the fact that it is his own mother from whom Sam has kept medical assistance. The books, called Inner Ring Books, are available in this country through Lawrence Verry, Inc., Mystic, Conn.

Raymond, Charles. Jud. Houghton, 1968. 212p. $3.50.

Ad 5-7 Jud's father had grown up in the country, and he felt that his son was spoiled by the ease of city living; when he decided to move back to the Smoky Mountains, it was a blow to his son. No friends, no television . . . and Mom had to learn to milk a cow. But Jud found that the country was beautiful, the people friendly, and the pets he acquired an absorbing interest. When the time came to move back to the city, it was Jud who pleaded that they keep the place so that he could come back whenever possible. The atmosphere and setting are depicted well, but the book is weakened by the lack of a strong story line.

Robinson, Ann. Joshua; written and illus. by Ann Robinson. Roy, 1968. 166p. $3.95.

R 5-6 An amiable story about a small boy who runs away from an orphanage in England, and finds himself fitting into the household of an elderly couple. Joshua, fearing a scolding from the Matron, ran off and stumbled—literally—into Professor Wagstaffe, a slightly eccentric, not-quite-stereotyped ornithologist. The Wagstaffes decided that their childless household was no place for Joshua, but the overnight stay was extended to a longer visit; by the time a decision had to be made, it was clear

that the freedom of the Wagstaffe's life, the friendliness of the community, and the charms of a newly-acquired dog had enthralled Joshua and that the elderly couple had found him a happy addition to their lives. The style is good, the characters well-drawn, and the several sub-plots unobtrusive if irrelevant.

Ross, Zola H. The Sunken Forest; by Zola H. Ross and Lucile M. McDonald. Weybright & Talley, 1968. 119p. $3.95.

M 6-9 There were several things that troubled Alicia during her senior year of high school. What had happened to the money collected by the junior class and lost by a teacher? What career should she pursue? And, chiefly, what was the truth about an old town scandal that persisted in the belief that Jane's grandfather had killed a man? Jan, withdrawn and surly, was hostile to everybody and Alicia determined to do something about it. In a forest underwater (due to an old landslide) lay the answer. Unfortunately, the finding of the answer is as contrived as is much else in the story; the writing style is competent and the authors give an amicable picture of student-faculty relationships, but the plot creaks and the book seems crowded with minor characters.

Schatz, Letta. Bola and the Oba's Drummers; illus. by Tom Feelings. McGraw-Hill, 1967. 156p. $4.50.

Ad 4-6 A story set in West Africa today, slow-moving but giving a good picture of village life and a perceptive picture of familial relationships; adequately written and illustrated, the story balances nicely the appeal of the unfamiliar setting against the universality of those relationships. Enchanted by the sight and sound of the ruler and his Royal Drummers, Bola makes friends with the youngest drummer, who teaches him. Father does not approve of Bola's desire to become a drummer, but he changes his mind when he realizes how much other men respect the King's Drummers and when he realizes how well Bola has learned to play.

Schwartz, Alvin. The People's Choice; The Story of Candidates, Campaigns, and Elections; illus. with photographs. Dutton, 1968. 96p. Trade ed. $4.95; Library ed. $4.90 net.

R 6-9 A matter-of-fact survey of the democratic procedure, from precinct organization to presidential inauguration. The text discusses the selection of candidates, the costs of campaigns, the mudslinging and the manipulating, and the techniques of campaigning, old and new. There is a good selection of photographs, but there are several pictures in which two or three people are shown, the captions referring to only one; it is assumed that the reader will know which of the men in one picture, for example, is Norman Thomas. A list of terms used in an election campaign is appended.

Seidelman, James E. The Rub Book; by James E. Seidelman and Grace Mintonye; drawings by Lynn Sweat. Crowell-Collier, 1968. 26p. $3.50.

Ad 3-5 A book that suggests to a child that it can be interesting to make rubbings, but that is not completely successful because it is neither a good story nor an adequate how-to-do-it book. Jeff, idly rubbing a crayon over paper to get the feeling of the surface drawn on paper, discovers the

pleasures of a new technique. His mother gives him some advice on making rubbings, and he does some experimenting. The fictionalization seems pointless, and the information given in the text is not supplemented by diagrams or illustrations; those in the book either show the finished product or are irrelevant.

Selden, George. The Dunkard; pictures by Peter Lippman. Harper, 1968. 48p. Trade ed. $2.95; Library ed. $2.92 net.

R K-3 On Grown-Up day, each child in George's school brings an adult who tells about his job. George wants something new and different, law and medicine having become old hat. He is invited into the home of a cheery middle-aged man who announces that he is a dedicated dunker; fascinated both by the dunkard and the delights of dunking, George brings his prize to school; he not only wins first prize, but also sets the example, in the school cafeteria, for all their guests. Everybody dunks. Everything. Silly but nicely told, an amusing story with lively but often grotesque drawings.

Sendak, Jack. Martze; pictures by Mitchell Miller. Farrar, 1968. 71p. $3.50.

M 5-6 Martze, a boy who is convinced that he can do magical things, is jeered at by the people of his village; hating them, hearing himself called a fool, he decides to go elsewhere. So begins a series of fantastic adventures, such as meeting the king of a cardboard country or the giant who is unhappy when Martze releases him from his bonds. In the end he meets a girl he has seen in a vision, and together Martze and Pomegranate fly away into the skies. The story ends, "And Martze knew that he was a true wizard after all. He knew that with Pomegranate at his side he would do the greatest feats of magic the world had ever seen." The episodes are imaginative, the writing style uneven; in the behavior of the characters there is both naïveté and a touch of the grotesque.

Shay, Arthur. What Happens When You Make a Telephone Call. Reilly and Lee, 1968. 26p. illus. $3.95.

M 3-4 Photographs of variable usefulness illustrate this discussion of how a telephone system works. Both in text and illustrations, the book is weakened by a tendency to cuteness—with pictures of the author's children that are less than informative, or with dialogue in the text that is of little relevance. The pictures and text together give a good idea of the magnitude and complexity of a telephone system, but the book treats only superficially the translation of sound to electrical impulse and back to sound. Almost as simply written, and far more scientific and comprehensive is Schneider's Your Telephone and How It Works (McGraw-Hill, 3rd ed. 1965).

Silverberg, Robert. The World of the Ocean Depths. Meredith, 1968. 142p. illus. $4.95.

R 6- An excellent survey of one of the great areas of scientific research today focuses (although it also discusses theories of formation and physical attributes of the oceans) on the discoveries that have been—and are being—made about marine life. The book is well-written and is illustrated with interesting photographs and drawings; it gives information both about the men and machines used in exploration of the ocean depths and

about the strange and wonderful creatures that have been found there. A bibliography and an index are appended.

Skorpen, Liesel Moak. Outside My Window; pictures by Mercer Mayer. Harper, 1968. 32p. Trade ed. $2.50; Library ed. $2.57 net.

Ad 4-6 A gentle, fanciful story about a boy and a bear, slight but appealing, and reminiscent in the illustrations of both Little Bear and Pooh. The small boy, ready for bed, sees a sad-faced cub outside his wondow; allowed in, the bear sits about looking sad while the boy tries—unsuccessfully—various disguises that might fool parents. They don't work; defeated, the boy gives the bear a flashlight, cookies, and a scarf, and send him out into the night; cub and mother bear have a happy reunion and the boy goes peacefully to sleep.

Skrebitski, G. A. Forest Echo; tr. from the Russian by Anne Terry White. Braziller, 1967. 71p. illus. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $4.35 net.

R 5-8 Ten episodes about nature and animals, well-written and smoothly translated; all of them are about incidents in the author's childhood: the story of a wild bird that became quite tame; another about a fox who brought food for her cub, captured by a hunter, and laid it on the threshold; a family fishing expedition to celebrate a birthday. There is, in addition to the appeal to nature lovers, a sympathetic and affectionate family situation.

Smith, Howard E. From Under the Earth: America's Metals, Fuels and Minerals; illus. by the author. Harcourt, 1967. 161p. $3.50.

Ad 6-9 A survey of twenty-eight kinds of mineral resources of the United States, with two to twelve pages being devoted to each topic. The information given about each metal, fuel, or mineral varies from topic to topic, but most sections give some facts about the discovery or use of the raw material in past times, and some about the mining and manufacturing of it today. The information is useful although its usefulness is limited by the fact that the pattern of treatment varies. The writing style is direct but rather dull; few of the illustrations are either useful or attractive. Production tables, maps showing mineral deposits, and a good relative index are appended.

Sommerfelt, Aimée. No Easy Way; tr. by Patricia Crampton; illus. by Theresa Brudi. Criterion Books, 1968. 159p. $3.95.

Ad 6-8 Translated from the Norwegian, the story of a fifteen-year-old girl who wanted nothing but to become an actress—and that was very difficult indeed in 1867. Tonia's father was a stern and dictatorial man who did not at all approve of his daughter's ambition; Tonia herself was so determined to achieve her goal that she secretly took lessons, thereby braving the paternal wrath that came later. When Tonia's teacher contracted cholera and she insisted on nursing him, her father was touched by her dedication; after the teacher's death, Tonia was given her first professional part. The writing style is good, the period details intriguing; the book is weak in story line, made diffuse by sub-plots (sister's engagement, brother's running away from home) so that it is neither an effective story of a girl's theatrical ambition nor a balanced family story.

Sonneborn, Ruth A. The Lollipop Party; pictures by Brinton Turkle. Viking, 1967. 26p. $2.75.

Ad 4-6 yrs. A good book to use with a group of children because of the big, clean pictures, this story of a small boy left alone for the first time is realistic but quite static. Mama works part of the day and is usually home at about the same time that Tomas is brought home from nursery school by his sister. One day Mama doesn't arrive, and sister must go to her baby-sitting job; alone, Tomas sits very still until there is a knock at the door. It is his teacher, and Tomas—knowing he must not touch the stove and can't offer tea as Mama does—offers a lollipop. When Mama arrives, there are explanations, and praise for Tomas; Mama, too, is offered a lollipop.

Tresselt, Alvin R. The Legend of the Willow Plate; by Alvin Tresselt and Nancy Cleaver; with pictures by Joseph Low. Parents' Magazine, 1968. 38p. Trade ed. $3.50; Library ed. $3. net.

R 3-4 Delicate and evocative illustrations enhance this nicely told version of a Chinese legend, the story of true love that triumphs over the vicissitudes of fate and time. A poor poet and the daughter of a wealthy mandarin run off together and are discovered by a jilted suitor; the husband is killed, the young wife then kills herself. The two are turned into doves, to fly forever together in eternal companionship—and this, with other aspects of the story, is shown in the double-page spread that pictures the two plump doves so familiar in the willow pattern.

Weaver, Robert G. Nice Guy, Go Home. Harper, 1968. 180p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.79 net.

R 7-10 "You throw the ball hard. You could hit somebody. You could hurt somebody bad. That's no son of mine," Johnny's father said. But Johnny wanted to play baseball so much that he gave up the Amish ways and joined a pro team. Mistaken for a civil rights worker because of his long hair, Johnny is drawn into the conflict in a southern town as well as into the competitive world of baseball; although he respects the Amish ideology, he finds that he can't preserve the neutrality of his people. The baseball sequences are good, and the story has more depth and variety than do most sports novels.

White, Anne Terry. Man the Thinker; by Anne Terry White and Gerald S. Lietz; illus. by Ted Schroeder. Garrard, 1967. 80p. $2.32.

Ad 4-6 Although weakened by some lyrical but uninformative writing, this is a good book on the process of thought, the text giving accurate and clearly written information about the nervous system as well as discussing such phenomena as conditioning, memory, and learning. The authors make a crisp statement about the innate equality of men, a hopeful statement about the objective approach and human curiosity, and a rather florid one about brotherhood and peace.

Willis, Corinne. Boy Minus Girl. McKay, 1967. 184p. $3.95.

Ad 8-10 Brick is tall, very thin, and utterly without confidence; the quiet, pretty girl he likes doesn't seem to know he is alive. Brick's other problem is his relationship with his parents: his mother is a snob and

social climber, his father a gruff, hard-working newspaperman who cannot abide his son's levity or his low musical tastes. Brick's sister is in love with an Italian-American, and mother fights this every inch of the way. There are also a small mystery (at the supermarket where Brick works) and two romantic-triangle situations, plus the conflict between Brick's idealistic father and his materialistic mother. The book is adequately written and, although overburdened with sub-plots, it gives an excellent picture of the complexities of family life, candid and perceptive.

Wilson, Barbara Ker. The Biscuit-Tin Family; illus. by Astra Lacis Dick. World, 1968. 190p. Trade ed. $3.95; Library ed. $3.86 net.

Ad 6-5

A book that combines some chapters about a family in Australia today and some about another of Victorian times. Debbit Armstrong called the Pratts the "biscuit-tin family" because the faded old photographs of them were found in a biscuit tin. Only because the author writes so well does the story overcome two rather serious weaknesses: the two stories are kept completely separate and detract from each other, and the saga of the Pratt family is heavily laden with extraneous period material—the natural period details being augmented by rather contrived comments on Matthew Brady and the Civil War in America, on Australian history, on that shy mathematician who had written a children's book (a Mr. Dodgson) or on the interesting photographic process invented by a Frenchman named Daguerre.

Wise, William. Monsters of the Ancient Seas; illus. by Joseph Sibal. Putnam, 1968. 63p. (See and Read Books) Library ed. $2.52 net.

M 2-4

A continuous text, illustrated by drawings that are adequately detailed for scientific accuracy but are quite unattractive because of the too-filled pages. The text describes many of the creatures who lived in ancient times, but it is weakened by being dull and repetitive; the brief reference to the fossil discoveries of Mary Anning, at the beginning of the book, seems of little relevance. The book does have some minimal usefulness because it provides very simple information on a subject in which there is great interest.

Young, Margaret B. The Picture Life of Ralph J. Bunche; illus. with photographs. Watts, 1968. 45p. $2.65.

Ad 2-3

The quiet and dependable role of Ralph Bunche in the maintenance of peace in our time is impressive, and it is unfortunate that this biography vitiates the importance of that by its over-simplification and its stilted writing. It will, however, be useful as a biography, as additional information about the United Nations, and as another (and splendid) facet of the contributions of American Negroes to their country.

Reading for Parents

To order any of the materials listed here, please write directly to the publisher of the item, not to the BULLETIN of the Center for Children's Books.

American Library Association. Newbery Medal Books and Caldecott Medal Books. Pamphlets, $.05 each from the Children's Services Division of A.L.A., 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Childhood Education. "Young Deprived Children and Their Educational Need." 16p. $.25; a reprint from the September and October issue, available from the Association for Childhood Education International, 3615 Wisconsin Ave., Washington, D.C. 20016.

Children's Book Council. Aids to Choosing Books for Children 1968. Comp. by Ingeborg Boudreau. 6p. pamphlet. $.40 each; 10 or more, $.25 each. C.B.C., 175 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

_____. Children's Books: Awards and Prizes. A limited supply of single copies from C.B.C. Send #10 envelope, stamped and self-addressed.

Council on Interracial Books for Children. Write to 9 E. 40th Street, New York, N. Y. for samples of their publication.

Della-Piana, Gabriel; Stahmann, Robert; and Allen, John E. "Parents and Reading Achievement: A Reivew of Research." Elementary English, February, 1968.

Family Circle Magazine. "Fourteen Well-Known Parents Talk About Books Children Love." July, 1968 issue.

Fisher, Aileen. "Children's Poetry and Inner Space." The PTA Magazine, June, 1968.

Gagliardo, Ruth. "People, Places, and Picture Books." The PTA Magazine, May, 1968.

Holt, John. How Children Learn. Pitman Pub. Corp. 1967. 189p. $4.95.